

# DCGB NEWSLETTER

## February 2016

### MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As we begin this New Year, my hope is that all our dachshunds are kept warm and safe as the snow is flying all around us. They are our best friends, you know.

Welcome to this year's Dachshund Club of Greater Buffalo. We are a club that encourages proper care and training of our dachshunds, but much of the education at our meetings is applicable for all breeds. We invite any dog lover to our meetings with the hopes that they will enjoy their dogs all the more with what they may learn.

Our AKC recognized club supports the responsible breeding and care for our dachshunds and presents information to help everyone with any questions about their dogs' habits and training. And if there is not someone present to help with any issues you may have, we will find the answer and bring someone in to help you.

Also as an AKC recognized club, we are required to hold an annual specialty show for dachshunds. Our specialty is held each year at the end of September at Sampson State Park. Those grounds are on beautiful Seneca Lake! Anyone is welcome to come and camp and enjoy the show, the view, the shopping for dog items and of course the wineries in the area.

We also give our support to both the Buffalo Kennel Club and the Niagara Falls Kennel Clubs' annual show in January at the Erie County Fair Grounds.

Also, remember that dachshunds were bred to hunt badgers by going down those varmints' holes. There are several events that our club supports to test our dachshunds for what they were bred for. We have 'field trials' where they track rabbits (no rabbits are injured in this contest) and we have 'earth dog events' where dachshunds and other terriers go below ground to scent out a caged rat (again, no rats are hurt)

So, please feel welcome to join our meetings and learn everything you can about your dachshund. Bring your dogs and your friends and expect to have a ball!

Holly York Schotz, President

### DACHSHUND CLUB OF AMERICA 2016 NATIONALS

The fun this year begins on Sunday, April 24 with the tracking tests at Reading Farm in Gettysburg, PA. Then you get to hustle up to Wyoming Valley Beagle Club in Hunlock, PA near Wilkes Barre for the field events. The field events begin on Tuesday, April 26th. Then on to the Earth Dog tests at

Woodside, Champion, PA. These tests begin on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

If you are not already too exhausted, the highlights of the extravaganza begin on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Headquarters for that week is the Best Western Premier Hotel in Harrisburg, PA. The week will include agility, rally, obedience, conformation, seminars, dinners and lots of time to enjoy each other's company and see great dogs. The superintendent for the events held in Harrisburg is Rau Dog Shows.

A few of our club members will be attending at least some of these events. Even if you do not enter any of the events, it is a wonderful opportunity to meet Dachshund breeders, assess dogs that you have only read about or seen in photos and see first hand what our very versatile breed can do in the field and in the ring. It's not only a wonderful party but a learning experience too. Plus, you may just bring home a ribbon! Since the 2016 nationals are being held so close to home, we should all be marking our calendars. As a nearby club, our help would also be welcomed by the hosts, the Metropolitan Washington Dachshund Club and the DCA officers and board.

The 2017 Nationals will be held in St Louis.

For more information go to [www.dachshundclubofamerica.org](http://www.dachshundclubofamerica.org)

### SPECIALTY RESULTS

September 2015/ Wine Country  
(Member's Dogs in Bold Type)

#### Longhair

WD **Mardigras' Dark Chateaubriand** ML,  
Rhonda Doty

WB **Our Gang's In The Limelight**,  
BOW Nancy Prouty and Sharon Hilton

BOV **GCH. Dachshire You Got Me Nantucket** SL, Rhoda  
Weinman

BOS **GCH Our Gang's On The Wings of Love** ML, N. Prouty  
& B. Parker

SEL **GCH. Dikerdachs Blake**, Valerie Diker

SEL **CH Beldachs Vivacious Valadon V Dachsadore** SL

#### Smooth

WD **ACEM-Summer-Surprize** MS,  
BOS Sharon Budnick

**WB BOW Treslow's Payton The Town  
Black & Tan, Ann Wicks, Dawn Gagola & Donna Taylor**

BOV GCH DC Stardox When Irish Eyes Are Smilin' , Cathy Kelly, L&D Simmons

**SEL GCH Treslow's Garden Party SS, CGC,RN, BN, Dawn Gagola & Donna Taylor& Rachel Hoffman**

### Wirehair

WD Stone's Throw Heigh Ho Heigh  
BOV Ho, Kristen Wilson

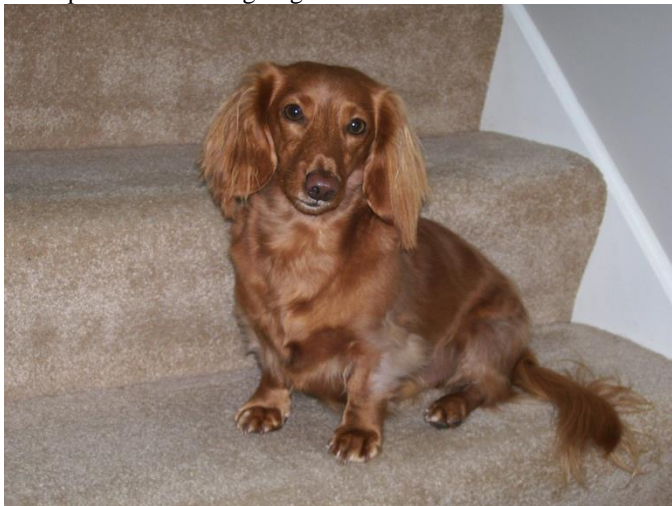
WB Stone's Throw With A Smile  
BOS And A Song, K & L Wilson

BOV GCH. Raydachs Ride My Ducati SW Shirley Ray

SEL GCH. Starbarrack NJ's Sweet Dreams SW, Mary E. Heywood & Sharon Johnson

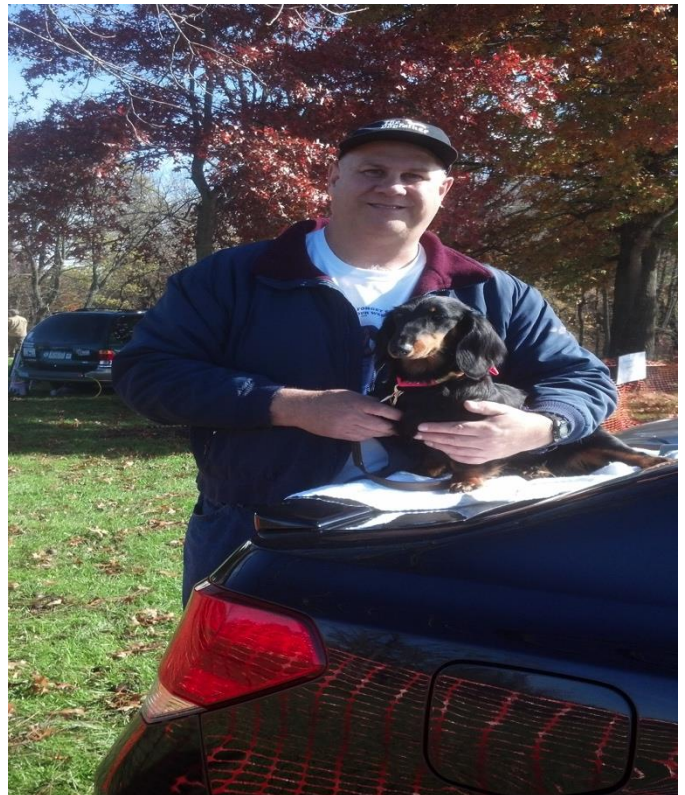
## FIELD TRIAL NEWS

Lucca and his Mom, **Toni Robach**, had a super time in April at the Swatara Beagle Grounds just south of Harrisburg, PA. This trial was hosted by the Dachshund Fanciers of Berk's County. On Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, Lucca was entered in the Open All Age Dog stake. There were 6 dogs entered in this stake and after three braces Lucca was in first place. He then had to run against Savina, the top bitch out of 14 starters in the Open Bitch stake. Lucca beat Savina to become Best Open. Lucca then ran against FC Cooper for Absolute. Unfortunately, Cooper won that contest! The next day, Lucca was again entered in the Open dog stake and came in first again. And, again after running against the winner of the bitch stake, he was Best Open. That day Lucca earned the points he needed to become a Field Champion. Now he moves into the Field Champion class where the competition is more challenging. Needless to say, he's up for it and raring to go!



**Lucca**

**Bill and Karen Brown's** young pup, Schatzie, earned her first field trial placement on Oct. 31 at Swatara. Schatzie was in second place at the end of first series. In a field trial the dog has to defend it's original placement from those below it in the rankings. So, second place Schatzie had to run against the holder of third place. Well, she and Bam Bam, the holder of third place, decided playing was in order. They had a ball running and chasing each other. Babies do play! Schatzie ended up in third place but is sure to have many more placements in her future. Schatzie, Dachsadore's Delightfully Devilish Sweetheart, is out of **Kim Bessinger's** Dancer.



**Bill and Schatzie**

**Gail Binder's** Edel (FC Edelweiss Von Lowenherz, RN) had a very successful day at the Albany club's trial in May at Tri-County Beagle Club in Carrolltown, PA. It just so happened that it was Edel's birthday. She won the whole shebang earning Absolute Winner for the day. When "field trial" was called out in the field officially ending the competition, most everyone was still in the field. Spontaneous singing of Happy Birthday to Edel erupted. The Beaglers who tend to be rather staid in their demeanor.... No silly stuff!... were flabbergasted and kept talking about it the rest of the weekend. And were still commenting on it at this Fall season's trials.

Those of you who do not come out to the field trials have no idea how much fun you and your dogs are missing. It's such a joy to see our dogs do what they were bred to do.

## NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

**Kim Bessinger** reports that her “Vivi” is now GCH Beldachs Vivacious Valadon V Dachsadore SL. Vivi earned her Grand Championship at the DCGB Wine Country Specialty on September 26 by going Select Bitch.

The other good news from Kim is that Vivi was bred to AKC CH Cedavoch Dark Lord who goes back to Bronia Conquistador from the UK. Kim is quite sure that puppies will arrive at the end of January.



**Kim and GCH Vivi**



**CH Cedavoch Dark Lord**

**Holly and Alex Schotz's** Callie (CH Carrdox Cross Town Girl of Long Shots) earned an NBQ at our club's field trial in September. NBQ means Next Best Qualifier.... Or fifth place. She is sure to move up in the placements as she gets more field experience. Callie's big achievement in 2015 was earning her breed Championship. She earned two majors at the Canfield, Ohio shows in August and at Wine Country she

earned the last few points she needed to finish up that Championship. Callie also went Best of Variety at the Putnam shows in July.

**Sonja Miller's** Schultz earned his Grand Championship at the Mt Laurel show on July 25<sup>th</sup>. During the summer, he earned many Best of Variety and Select Dog wins. Sonja's Doolie was interviewed on TV about his Therapy Dog work. Doolie was also honored in the Amherst Bee for his therapy work at the Kenmore Mercy/Catholic Health System.

**Dawn Gagola and Donna Taylor** shared lots of good dog news from 2015, Here is their story in Dawn's words.

“ Another year, another Dachshund story or tow for 2015. This has been a slow year in comparison, but never a dull moment for Treslow Dachshunds.

In March, we had our first home bred litter with Mama Mabel and Daddy Levi (both bred by Donna and me). Unfortunately, we lost Levi in May due to illness. Levi will be sadly missed but will live on forever in our hearts and through his pups. Donna wanted a boy. So, it figures we had 5 girls and only 1 boy. But, you only need one when it is a Blake. Look for Donna in 2016 in the conformation and obedience rings with Treslow's Tight Fittin Blu Jeans “Blake”.



**Mabel with her 6 pups**



**Introducing Blake**

With Mabel on maternity leave, not wanting to miss a local show, Grandma Gretchen came out of retirement or a few shows.

In April, Gretchen won Best of Variety and Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed at the Syracuse Dachshund Club Specialty in late April. Then in June, Gretchen and I won Best in Show Veteran at the Genesee Valley all breed shows. Not bad for an older girl!



**Dawn and BIS Veteran Gretchen**

In September, at our DCGB specialty shows in Wine Country, Treslow's Payton The Town Black and Tan (a Mabel and Levi daughter) at 6 months and 1 week of age won Best of Winners for her first major. Payton is lovingly owned and shown by Anne and David Wicks.

Donna and I dream of happy, loving homes for our puppies and are so grateful that **Todd and Zoe Patti** came into our extended family with Treslow's Etta Ain't Got The Blues.

So, it has been a very humbling and exciting year and Donna and I are looking forward to 2016 with our family, friends and tail wagging companions. “



**Etta and her big brother Jack**



**CH Treslow's Forever N Blu Jeans BN, "Levi"  
May 2004 – May 2015**

## CANINE NUTRITION

A few years ago, our club hosted two canine nutrition seminars, which were given by Dr. Joseph Wakshlag DVM, PhD, DACVN, a professor at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. Since we have many new members who may not have seen the write up about these seminars and for whom some of this information may be new, it is being included here again.

Dr Wakshlag is one of fewer than fifty veterinarians in the United States who are Diplomats of the American College of Veterinary Nutritionists. We are very fortunate to have his services available to us through the Companion Animal Hospital at Cornell. Dr. Joe, as he encourages us to call him, does private consultations to assist in providing the best diet and supplements for dogs with special medical needs. He will also provide an analysis of homemade diets and recommend what supplements to add.

The seminars covered a very timely topic given the dog food scares in March 2008 related to the presence of Melamine in wheat gluten coming from China. Dr Joe spoke at length on how to evaluate the ingredients of commercial dog foods. He also addressed the puzzle of supplements explaining which supplements are most beneficial for the average dog. At the seminar in March 2009, he focused on the special needs of dogs in various life stages and dogs with certain diseases.

### Evaluating Dog Foods:

Dr Joe stated that we should be careful not to over supplement. Most commercial dog foods do contain adequate nutrition. Check to see whether the food meets AAFCO standards. The primary protein sources should be meat, fish or dairy. It should contain adequate polyunsaturated fats and a good source of Omega 3 fatty acids. Soluble and insoluble fiber and minerals are also important components of a dog's food. Many commercial brands do lack selenium and supplementation should be considered. Although most foods are adequate, supplementation can enhance your dog's diet.

On the dog food package there will be recommendations on how much to feed. This is usually much more than is healthy for your dog. The company wants to sell as much as possible!

### Weight Management:

"Lite" foods may not really be low in calorie. Dr Joe suggests that you look to see what food is the basis of comparison. Is it low calorie compared to what? There are weight reduction products like Purina OM. These are low in calorie but provide enough bulk so that the dog isn't overly hungry. Dr Joe's department is researching these foods.

You should be able to feel your dog's ribs and the dog should have a waistline. If you can see your dog's hipbones protruding, the dog is too skinny.

### Puppies:

Small breed puppies should transition to adult food at about age 7-8 months. This is much earlier than large breeds. Puppy food should be at least 25% protein. The calcium to phosphorus ratio is extremely important to prevent bone growth abnormalities. There should be about 1% of each. Even if the ratio of 1:1 is maintained, a higher or lower % is not good. Glucosamine is not necessary until the pup is about a year old.

### Supplements:

As mentioned above, the AAFCO recommendations for selenium are too low. So, Dr. Joe recommended supplementing with selenium. For the average dog, he also believes that supplementing the dog's antioxidant system, providing Omega 3 fatty acids and chondroprotective agents is very important.

Some antioxidant agents work in the cells and others work in the membranes of the cells. They include vitamin E, vitamin C, lutein, lycopene, lipoic acid and Coenzyme Q 10. Most commercial dog foods provide some antioxidants but supplementing with perhaps two of them can enhance the dog's diet. Vitamin E is used as a preservative in dog foods and therefore is usually present in more than adequate amounts. Vitamin C is produced in the dog's body and usually only with dogs involved in extreme exercise situations would it need to be supplemented. Over supplementation of vitamin C can cause crystals in the urine.

Chondroprotective agents such as glucosamine have now been proven to be very important in preventing arthritis and in alleviating pain due to skeletal problems including intervertebral disc problems. There are many on the market. Glucosamine has been found to be more important than chondroitin, although chondroitin does supply some Omega 3 fatty acids. Dr Joe recommends using a brand that contains MSM, a sulfur containing ingredient, and to buy a known brand. Some brands have been found to contain little or no active ingredients. He also stated that dog foods that claim to contain glucosamine, etc. do not contain nearly enough to satisfy the need for protection. Some chondroprotective products such as hyaluronic acid are also more bioavailable and will infiltrate the space between the spinal cord and discs. These products are very beneficial to our dachshunds.

Omega 3 fatty acids seemed to pop up in every topic that Dr Joe addressed. These fatty acids are found in fish oil. They are extremely beneficial in preventing and addressing any kind of inflammatory condition including heart disease, skin and coat condition, kidney disease, arthritis etc. The best fish oils come from small fish living in cold Nordic waters. These include herring, white fish and salmon. Dr Joe now recommends a daily dose of one teaspoon of fish oil per 10 lbs

of dog body weight. This is an increase since his seminar last July!

### **Athletic Dogs:**

For our field trial folks, Dr Joe made a few interesting points. He races sled dogs and, of course, their requirements are much greater than our dogs. But, after a dog has been in the field all day they too have special needs. Hydration is the most important factor after exercise. Do not use the canine sports drinks that are on the market. You do not want to upset the electrolyte balance by using these drinks. Instead, to encourage your dog to drink, you may add chicken broth or honey to the water. To replenish muscle glycogen, feed pasta immediately ( within 30 minutes) following exercise.

### **Enteritis:**

Dr Joe emphasized, if your dog has a gastrointestinal upset, do not withhold food. Feed your dog but feed low fat highly digestible ingredients like eggs, chicken, couscous and pasta (not rice). Combine these with fat free broth to keep the dog hydrated. Also, use a soluble fiber supplement like Konsyl, which is a product you can find in your drug store. Probiotics are of lesser value than fiber in treating intestinal upset. Many probiotics also do not contain the active form of the ingredients on the label. You would have to feed two containers of Activa yogurt to get any benefit from a yogurt source of probiotics. Fiber is also important in liver and kidney support.

### **Old Dogs:**

Dr. Joe recommends for old dogs in general (not necessarily those with disease issues) that they be supplemented with glucosamine or a similar product, Coenzyme Q 10, fish oil, choline, S-AME, and fiber. All of these supplements will assist in protecting the joints, muscles, heart, liver and kidneys.

For cognitive dysfunction (doggie Alzheimer's) he believes that the antioxidants that are mentioned above in the section on supplementation are extremely important as well as choline. He highly recommends "S-AME" (S-adenosyl-methionine). This assists the dog's body in producing its own antioxidants. It also provides protection to the liver and inhibits the absorption of toxins from the digestive tract. It is similar to Milk Thistle but is better absorbed than Milk Thistle. The veterinary brand name is Denosyl.

### **Disease States:**

Dr Joe went into great detail regarding nutrition for dogs with cancer, liver and kidney disease, urinary tract problems and heart disease. If you have concerns in these areas, you should arrange a consultation with Dr Joe at Cornell.

Summary written by Gail Binder

## **SURPRISING INSIGHTS INTO LIFESTYLE AND IVDD**

**(From the United Kingdom Breed Council Dachshund Health Information Library)**

The 2015 DachsLife Breed Health Survey set out to survey people's experience of IVDD (Back Disease) in their Dachshunds and to look at the lifestyle factors that may contribute to back problems.

There are plenty of anecdotes and advice on how to rear a Dachshund to minimize the risks of back problems, but very little data to support any of these. So, when the results of the survey emerged, there were a few surprises. With responses for over 2000 Dachshunds we had a good sample and were able to draw statistically valid conclusions. However, it is important to remember that "association" is not the same as "causation"; just because we found a relationship between a particular factor and IVDD, doesn't prove there is a cause and effect linkage.

Some of the results are intuitively obvious and will clearly support long-held views. Others contradict conventional wisdom and, no doubt, some people will be looking for reasons to discount the findings. However, don't forget that we had a large sample of dogs and are only reporting results that were statistically significant. It's also worth noting that 89% of the dogs in the survey were purely owned as pets and did not belong to owners in the showing community. How many dogs had back problems? In total, 342 (17%) Dachshunds were reported as having had some degree of back problem. 104 of those went on to have repeat incidents. The proportion reporting IVDD varied depending on the variety (coat and size). Smooths had the highest (25%) reported prevalence and Wires the lowest (9%). There was no difference in IVDD prevalence between dogs and bitches.

However, it is important to note that IVDD is a particular risk between the ages of 4 and 7, so these figures need to be adjusted to show prevalence by age. Although there were a few cases in very young dogs, the majority of cases of IVDD began to be reported in Dachshunds over 4 years old. Across the whole survey population, 83% of the dogs had not experienced IVDD, but 40% of the dogs aged between 5 and 14 had suffered some degree of IVDD. 76% of the dogs that suffered some degree of IVDD had this diagnosed between the ages of 4 and 8.

Many of the findings reported here are for dogs over the age of three, to remove the effect of IVDD-free young dogs in the sample.

### **Lifestyle Factor 1: Neutering**

The odds of a neutered Dachshund suffering IVDD over the age of 3 is nearly double (1.8x) that of an entire Dachshund. Neutering under the age of 12 months has higher odds of IVDD than neutering over the age of 1. This does not mean there is a cause and effect relationship between neutering and IVDD, but it has some parallels with a study of Golden Retrievers that showed neutered animals were more likely to suffer from Hip Dysplasia. Although the mechanism for this is not clear, it is easy to hypothesize about the effects of early neutering on bone development when an animal is not fully mature.

### **Lifestyle Factor 2: Body condition**

In their 2013 research the Royal Veterinary College showed that dogs that were fat or obese were more likely to suffer with IVDD than fitter, thinner dogs. We weren't able to replicate that finding in our survey. Even if being overweight doesn't act as a risk factor for IVDD there are plenty of other reasons not to allow your Dachshund to get fat; as in people, heart disease and diabetes are likely risks.

### **Lifestyle Factor 3: Activity levels**

We asked owners to describe their Dachshund's activity level as: Highly active, Moderately active, Mildly active, Not at all active.

Dogs over the age of 3 that were highly or moderately active were half as likely to have suffered an IVDD incident as dogs described as mildly or not at all active. This could either be a genuine effect of fitter dogs being less prone to IVDD, or affected dogs are now leading less active lives.

### **Lifestyle Factor 4: Exercise**

Dachshunds over the age of 3 that were only exercised by being given daily free running/ playing in the garden were 1.8 times more likely to suffer IVDD than dogs that were taken for walks on and off the lead as well. This was statistically significant.

Presumably, "proper walks" on and off the lead build more muscle-tone and better body condition than free-play in the garden.

### **Lifestyle Factor 5: Going up and down stairs**

Dachshunds over the age of 3 that were allowed to go up/down a flight of stairs every day had a lower probability of IVDD than those not allowed to use stairs (Odds Ratio = 0.4). This was statistically significant.

This finding is interesting in light of a previous Scandinavian study (\*) that showed moderate use of stairs reduced the risk of disc calcification whereas accompanying a cyclist increased the risk. \*Occurrence of Intervertebral Disc Calcification in the Dachshund [Journal of Veterinary Medicine, Series A, 47 (5): 283-296]

### **Lifestyle Factor 6: Jumping on and off furniture**

Dachshunds over the age of 3 that were allowed to jump on and off furniture every day had a lower probability of IVDD than those not allowed to do this (Odds Ratio = 0.3). This was statistically significant.

### **Lifestyle Factor 7: Collar vs. a harness**

Dogs over the age of 3 that were exercised wearing harnesses were 2.3 times more likely to have suffered an IVDD incident than those exercised in collars. This was statistically significant. This does not imply causation; it may simply be a reflection of the fact that dogs that have suffered IVDD may be exercised in harnesses in preference to collars.

Dogs that pulled on the lead rather than walking to heel were no more likely to have suffered IVDD, irrespective of whether or not they wore a collar or a harness.

### **Lifestyle Factor 8: Showing your Dachshund**

Dogs over the age of 3 that did not participate in KC Open or Championship shows were 3.8 times more likely to have suffered an IVDD incident. This was statistically significant. In our 2012 survey, dogs that were not shown were twice as likely to have suffered from IVDD.

This effect is not related to Body Condition Score (BCS) as show and non-show dogs did not have significantly different proportions of dogs with a BCS >3 (ideal).

### **Lifestyle Factor 9: Owning more than one**

We all know that owning Dachshunds is a cumulative hobby and the good news from our survey is that it also reduces the risk of your dog having back problems!

Dachshunds living with more than 1 other Dachshund or living with **other** (non-Dachshund) dogs had a lower risk of IVDD than Dachshunds living on their own. Living with 2 or more other Dachshunds halved the risk compared with those living on their own. Those living with other breeds of dog also had a lower risk.

Owning several Dachshunds possibly means they spend more time playing together and self-exercising than those who live alone.

There was no difference in IVDD prevalence if living with just 1 other Dachshund. These findings may support the data

that suggests, “show” owners’ dogs have a lower IVDD rate, as most show people typically keep multiple Dachshunds.

### **Lifestyle Factor 10: Diet**

4 in 10 Dachshunds over the age of 3 were fed a Complete Diet and a further 1 in 4 were fed a combination of Complete/Wet. There was no statistically significant difference in IVDD rates between any of the diets (complete, wet, raw, or any combination).

### **Lifestyle Factor 11: Dietary Supplements**

Many owners give supplements such as Glucosamine and Chondroitin in the hope that they will be “good for backs” and “prevent joint problems”.

Overall, for dogs over the age of 3, the risk of IVDD was no different between dogs receiving supplements and those not. In fact, dogs whose diets were supplemented with Glucosamine and Chondroitin were nearly twice as likely to have had an IVDD incident. This is possibly a reflection of the fact that owners give supplements to dogs that have already had an IVDD incident.

Interestingly, dogs whose diets were supplemented with Cod Liver Oil were half as likely to have had an IVDD incident.

#### **What’s the best advice to help you avoid back problems?**

The fact that Dachshunds are a short-legged (chondrodystrophic) breed remains the biggest causal factor in IVDD because the discs in the spine calcify at a much younger age than in normal-legged breeds of dog. Additionally, IVDD has a strong heritability, meaning it runs in families. Dogs whose parents and other ancestors suffered from IVDD are much more likely also to suffer from IVDD.

The Breed Council has several projects currently underway with veterinary and genetic researchers, which are aimed at finding ways to help breeders reduce the risks associated with the genetic causes of IVDD.

Nevertheless, lifestyle factors can help reduce the risks:

Don’t over-exercise a young puppy; allow it to mature fully and for its bones and muscles to develop before expecting it to be able to go on long walks (a rough guide is 5 minutes of “formal, on-lead exercise” daily, per month of age, in addition to allowing free playing/exercise)

Once fully grown (over the age of 12 months), keep your dog well-exercised and in good body condition (well-muscled and not overweight)

A mixed exercise regime on-lead and off-lead will help build good muscle-tone; they need to live their lives as “proper dogs” – remember their working origins, so they should be able to run and jump

Be very cautious of making a decision to spay or neuter your Dachshund, particularly before the age of 12 months; there is

plenty of research evidence that neutering of males has few health benefits and spaying of bitches has some, but not overwhelming, health benefits

Feed a good quality, well-balanced, diet that helps maintain your dog at an ideal body condition (not fat, or thin); remember, it’s very easy not to notice your dog becoming too fat

The content of this report does not constitute veterinary advice and you should make decisions on your Dachshund’s lifestyle in conjunction with advice from your own vet.

Contact us: Breed Council Chairman, Health & Welfare Subcommittee Chairman

(Editor’s note – the Breed Council’s website has other informative articles. Google – UK Dachshund Health Report. The Dachshund Club of America also has an illustrated brochure on IVDD which can be ordered free of charge on their website and a text only version can be found under “health” on their website.

[www.Dachshundclubofamerica.org](http://www.Dachshundclubofamerica.org).)

## **STUDY FINDS LONG, LOVING GAZES DEEPEN DOG-OWNER BOND**

By Melissa Healy - LA Times

(contributed by DCGB member Carol Hansen)

The long, loving gazes: the ritualized, often high pitched, expressions of affection; the heroic self-sacrifice one would readily endure for the other: What is it about the bond between humans and their dogs that is not unlike the relationship between parent and child?

Now comes evidence that when our dogs gaze into our eyes with that “you are everything to me” look, our bodies- and theirs as well- are flooded with Oxytocin, the hormone of love, nurture, mutual trust and, and above all, bonding that forms between a parent and child.

In a new study, Japanese researchers observed the interactions of 30 dog owners and their canine companions, and found that the more that the owners and their dogs gazed into each others’ eyes, the more concentrated was the burst of oxytocin both human and canine produced. And, they found, the more we humans return a pet’s gaze and the greater the resulting surge of oxytocin, the more emphatically we believe that ours is the best dog in the whole wide world.

In a separate experiment, the researchers administered dogs a supplemental dose of oxytocin before a half-hour session of interaction between dog and owner. Among female dogs the increase in oxytocin boosted the number of times the dog locked eyes with it’s owner, which in turn set off an increase in oxytocin released in the owner’s blood. The same response was not noted in male dogs.



The findings – that humans may feel affection for their companion dogs similar to that felt toward human family members” are likely to be greeted by dog lovers with a knowing nod

But, these findings and their implications actually help solve a perplexing evolutionary mystery: How did two species from very different branches of the evolutionary tree come not only to cease mutual aggression, but to live together, read each others’ facial cues and love each other with a ferocity that often mimics the relationship between mother and child?

The study’s results suggest that dogs and their humans grow to love and protect each other through a positive feedback loop that is mediated by the same neurochemical- oxytocin- that jump-starts the bond between infant and mother, that cements mutual trust between lovers, and that transforms men from solitary hunters to loving protectors of kith and kin.

The authors of the new study suggest that over eons of co-evolution, dogs likely insinuated themselves ever more deeply into human society by “co-opting” the behavior and the neural machinery that draw humans together in tight pair bonds.

## DCGB COMING EVENTS

**DCGB Meeting Dates:** Feb 7, March 6 and April 17 at 2:00 pm at the Bowmansville Methodist Church on Genesee Street in Bowmansville.

**DCGB Brunch-** March 20. It will be at the Ramada Inn 2402 North Forest Road, Getzville, N Y from noon until approximately 4 PM. This event is becoming an annual opportunity for us to relax and visit together. Watch our website for information on how to RSVP. Unfortunately, dogs must stay home!

**DCGB Picnic:** We do not yet have a date for our picnic but are hoping that Dawn and Al Gagola and Donna Taylor will again host this fun event at their home 5250 Gasport Road, Gasport Call 716-772-7813 for info and to RSVP.

**DCGB Field Trial:** Sept.17 and Sept.18. We do not yet have a location. Lack of rabbits at several Beagle clubs has required us to seek new sites. Watch our website [www.dcg.net](http://www.dcg.net) for information closer to September. Contact Bill at [bill@stumpydogs.org](mailto:bill@stumpydogs.org) or Gail at [geb3679@rit.edu](mailto:geb3679@rit.edu).

**DCGB Conformation Specialty Show:** October 1<sup>st</sup> in Romulus, NY. Our specialty will again be part of the 4 day Wine Country Circuit which begins on Thursday, Sept. 29th and continues through Sunday, Oct 2nd  
Joining us this year on Friday, Sept 30<sup>th</sup> will be the **Albany Capital District Dachshund Club Specialty**. This combination of specialties should draw a good entry.

## OTHER COMING EVENTS

**Dachshund Association of Long Island and DCA Regional Specialty Shows:** February 12/13 in Rye Brook, New York ([info@raudogshows.com](mailto:info@raudogshows.com))

**Knickerbocker Dachshund Club:** February 14 at New York Hotel Pennsylvania , NYC ([mbf@infodog.com](mailto:mbf@infodog.com))

**Westminster Kennel Club:** February 15/16 at Madison Square Garden will be televised.

**Barn Hunt Test:** Feb 13/14, Tonawanda , NY For more information go to [www.alldawgsacademy.vpweb.com](http://www.alldawgsacademy.vpweb.com)

**Dachshund Club of New Jersey Specialty:** March 26 in Edison, New Jersey ([info@raudogshows.com](mailto:info@raudogshows.com))

**Salt City Conformation and Obedience Cluster:** March 30 – April 3 at the Fairgrounds in Syracuse. Notice this is now a 5 day event beginning on Wednesday. ([info@raudogshows.com](mailto:info@raudogshows.com))

**Barn Hunt Test:** April 9/10, Central Square, NY. For more information go to [www.centralbark.biz](http://www.centralbark.biz)

**Metropolitan Baltimore Dachshund Club Specialty:** April 22 in Timonium, Maryland ([mbf@infodog.com](mailto:mbf@infodog.com))

**Met. Washington and Dachshund Club of America National Field Trial:** April 26-29, Wyoming Valley Beagle Club, Hunlock, PA

**Syracuse Dachshund Club Conformation/Obedience Specialty:** April 30 –May 1 in Locke, NY Contact Darryl Hurst for more information. ([hurst899@windstream.net](mailto:hurst899@windstream.net))

**DCA and Regional Earth Dog Tests:** April 30 – May 1, Woodside in Champion PA

**DCA Agility Trial:** May 1, Bella Vista Training Center, Lewisberry , PA

**Metropolitan Washington Conformation and Obedience/Rally:** May 3 – May 4, Best Western Hotel, Harrisburg, PA ([info@raudogshows.com](mailto:info@raudogshows.com))

**Dachshund Club of America Conformation/Obedience/Rally:** May 5 -7, Best Western Hotel Harrisburg, PA ([info@raudogshows.com](mailto:info@raudogshows.com)) .

**Albany and Bay Colony Field Trials:** May 21/22 at the Tri-County Beagle Club, Carrolltown, PA

**Olean and Conewango Kennel Clubs Conformation and Obedience Trials:** June 3/4/5. (mbf@infodog.com)

**Dachshund Club of New Jersey Field Trial:** June 11/12 at Swartara Beagle Club, Elizabethtown, PA

**Genesee Valley Kennel Club Conformation and Obedience Trials:** June 25/26 Bill Gray's Ice Arena, Henrietta, NY (pending)

**Kennel Club Lackawanna Earth Dog Event:** June 25/26, Moscow, PA (pending)

**Finger Lakes Kennel Club AKC Earth Dog Event:** July 23 and July 24, Newark Valley, NY. (pending)

**Albany Dachshund Club Earth Dog Event:** Sept 3/4, Otego, NY. (pending)

**Western Lakes Training Club Obedience/Rally Trials:** Sept 10 and Sept 11, East Amherst, NY (pending)

Many of these events are in the planning stages. So, check for details closer to the given dates. Field Trials, in particular, may change because of uncertainty about location.

Watch our club website for more information on our club events - [www.dcgcb.net](http://www.dcgcb.net)

For show information go to [www.infodog.com](http://www.infodog.com) or [www.raudogshows.com](http://www.raudogshows.com) or [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) or contact the host club.